
By: **Senator Munson**

Introduced and read first time: January 22, 2003

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws - Approaching Emergency Vehicles Parked on Highway -**
3 **Driver's Duties**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring drivers approaching emergency and police vehicles
5 stopped, standing, or parked on a highway and using certain visual signals,
6 except when otherwise directed by a police officer, to vacate the lane closest to
7 the emergency or police vehicle under certain circumstances and to slow to
8 certain speeds under certain circumstances; and generally relating to requiring
9 drivers to take certain actions when approaching certain emergency and police
10 vehicles on a highway.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
12 Article - Transportation
13 Section 21-405
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2002 Replacement Volume)

16 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
17 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

18 **Article - Transportation**

19 21-405.

20 (a) On the immediate approach of an emergency vehicle using audible and
21 visual signals that meet the requirements of § 22-218 of this article or of a police
22 vehicle lawfully using an audible signal, the driver of every other vehicle, unless
23 otherwise directed by a police officer, shall yield the right-of-way.

24 (b) On the immediate approach of an emergency vehicle using audible and
25 visual signals that meet the requirements of § 22-218 of this article or of a police
26 vehicle lawfully using an audible signal, the driver of every other vehicle, unless
27 otherwise directed by a police officer, shall drive immediately to a position parallel to
28 and as close as possible to the edge or curb of the roadway, clear of any intersection.

1 (c) On the immediate approach of an emergency vehicle using audible and
2 visual signals that meet the requirements of § 22-218 of this article or of a police
3 vehicle lawfully using an audible signal, the driver of every other vehicle, unless
4 otherwise directed by a police officer, shall stop and stay in this position until the
5 emergency vehicle has passed.

6 (d) A driver, when proceeding in the same direction as an emergency or police
7 vehicle, may not pass an emergency vehicle using audible and visual signals that
8 meet the requirements of § 22-218 of this article or a police vehicle lawfully using an
9 audible signal unless:

10 (1) The emergency vehicle has stopped; or

11 (2) Otherwise directed by a police officer.

12 (e) This section does not relieve the driver of an emergency vehicle from the
13 duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons.

14 (F) EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE DIRECTED BY A POLICE OFFICER, WHEN AN
15 EMERGENCY OR POLICE VEHICLE USING A VISUAL SIGNAL THAT MEETS THE
16 REQUIREMENTS OF § 22-218 OF THIS ARTICLE IS STOPPED, STANDING, OR PARKED ON
17 A HIGHWAY, THE DRIVER OF A VEHICLE APPROACHING THE EMERGENCY OR POLICE
18 VEHICLE FROM THE REAR, AS SOON AS IT IS SAFE, SHALL:

19 (1) IF THE VEHICLE IS TRAVELING ON A HIGHWAY WITH TWO OR MORE
20 LANES OF TRAFFIC MOVING IN THE DIRECTION THAT THE EMERGENCY OR POLICE
21 VEHICLE IS FACING, VACATE THE LANE CLOSEST TO THE EMERGENCY OR POLICE
22 VEHICLE; AND

23 (2) IF THE VEHICLE IS TRAVELING ON A HIGHWAY WITH ONLY ONE
24 LANE OF TRAFFIC MOVING IN THE DIRECTION THAT THE EMERGENCY OR POLICE
25 VEHICLE IS FACING:

26 (I) SLOW TO A SPEED THAT IS 20 MILES PER HOUR LESS THAN THE
27 POSTED SPEED LIMIT WHERE THE POSTED SPEED LIMIT IS 25 MILES PER HOUR OR
28 GREATER; AND

29 (II) TRAVEL AT 5 MILES PER HOUR WHEN THE POSTED SPEED LIMIT
30 IS 20 MILES PER HOUR OR LESS.

31 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
32 October 1, 2003.